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FILED

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2014 FEB 25 AM 10:55

CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DIST. OF CALIF.
RIVERSIDE

BY: _____

8 Attorney for MIDLAND CREDIT
 9 MANAGEMENT, INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, EASTERN DIVISION

EDCV 14 - 00349 VAP (FFM)

10 TONYA WASHINGTON,

Case No.

11 Plaintiff,

NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF
ACTION UNDER 28 U.S.C. §1441(a)

12 v.

State Court Complaint Filed: 1/27/14

13 MIDLAND CREDIT
14 MANAGEMENT, INC.,

15 Defendant.

16 TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

17 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a) and 1331,
 18 Defendant Midland Credit Management, Inc. ("Midland") hereby removes this
 19 action from the Superior Court of the State of California for the County of San
 20 Bernardino, Case No. SMCFS1400430 (the "State Case") to the United States
 21 District Court for the Central District of California, Eastern Division. The grounds
 22 for this removal are:

23 FACTUAL SUMMARY

24 1. On January 27, 2014, plaintiff Tonya Washington commenced the State
 25 Case alleging violations of the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C.
 26 § 1692 *et seq.*) and the Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (Cal. Civ. Code
 27 § 1788 *et seq.*).
 28

1 2. Midland was served with the summons and complaint on January 27,
2 2014.

3 3. This notice is therefore timely pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b) because
4 it is being filed within thirty days after service of the complaint.

5 **JURISDICTION**

6 4. Removal is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a), which entitles a
7 defendant to remove “any civil action brought in a State court of which the district
8 courts of the United States have original jurisdiction,” and 28 U.S.C. § 1331, which
9 gives district courts “original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the
10 Constitution, laws, or treaties of the United States.” The district court has
11 supplemental jurisdiction over the alleged state law claim because it is so related to
12 the claim over which the district court has original jurisdiction that it “form[s] part
13 of the same case or controversy.” 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

14 5. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), Midland attaches as Exhibit 1 a copy
15 of all process, pleadings, and orders served upon defendant in the State Court action.

16
17 DATED: February 21, 2014

SOLOMON WARD SEIDENWURM &
SMITH, LLP

18
19
20 By: 

21 THOMAS F. LANDERS
22 Attorney for MIDLAND CREDIT
23 MANAGEMENT, INC.
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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Pages

Exhibit 1: State Court Action 1-6

EXHIBIT 1

SC-100**Plaintiff's Claim and ORDER
to Go to Small Claims Court****Notice to the person being sued:**

- You are the Defendant if your name is listed in ② on page 2 of this form. The person suing you is the Plaintiff, listed in ① on page 2.
- You and the Plaintiff must go to court on the trial date listed below. If you do not go to court, you may lose the case.
- If you lose, the court can order that your wages, money, or property be taken to pay this claim.
- Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case.
- Read this form and all pages attached to understand the claim against you and to protect your rights.

Aviso al Demandado:

- Usted es el Demandado si su nombre figura en ② de la página 2 de este formulario. La persona que lo demanda es el Demandante, la que figura en ① de la página 2.
- Usted y el Demandante tienen que presentarse en la corte en la fecha del juicio indicada a continuación. Si no se presenta, puede perder el caso.
- Si pierde el caso la corte podría ordenar que le quiten de su sueldo, dinero u otros bienes para pagar este reclamo.
- Lleve testigos, recibos y cualquier otra prueba que necesite para probar su caso.
- Lea este formulario y todas las páginas adjuntas para entender la demanda en su contra y para proteger sus derechos.

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
SUPERIOR COURT
FONTANA DISTRICT**

JAN 24 2014

BY [Signature] Deputy

Fill in court name and street address:

Superior Court of California, County of

San Bernardino
17780 Arrow Boulevard
Fontana, CA 92335

Clerk fills in case number and case name:

Case Number:

SCPS1400430

Case Name:

Order to Go to Court**The people in ① and ② must go to court:** (Clerk fills out section below.)

Trial Date	→ Date	Time	Department	Name and address of court if different from above
	3-28-14	8:00	F2.	FONTANA SUPERIOR COURT 17780 ARROW BLVD. FONTANA, CA 92335
	2. _____	_____	_____	_____
	3 JAN 24 2014			
Date:	Clerk, by			, Deputy

Instructions for the person suing:

- You are the Plaintiff. The person you are suing is the Defendant.
- Before you fill out this form, read Form SC-100-INFO, *Information for the Plaintiff*, to know your rights. Get SC-100-INFO at any courthouse or county law library, or go to: www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/forms.
- Fill out pages 2 and 3 of this form. Then make copies of all pages of this form. (Make 1 copy for each party named in this case and an extra copy for yourself.) Take or mail the original and these copies to the court clerk's office and pay the filing fee. The clerk will write the date of your trial in the box above.
- You must have someone at least 18—not you or anyone else listed in this case—give each Defendant a court-stamped copy of all 5 pages of this form and any pages this form tells you to attach. There are special rules for "serving," or delivering, this form to public entities, associations, and some businesses. See Forms SC-104, SC-104B, and SC-104C.
- Go to court on your trial date listed above. Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case.

Case Number:

SC-100-140043

Plaintiff (list names): Tonya Washington

1 The Plaintiff (the person, business, or public entity that is suing) is:

Name: Tonya Washington

Phone: ()

Street address: Confidential-CA Govt Code 6254.21 & .24

Street

City

State

Zip

Mailing address (if different): PO Box 1436

Street

Rialto

City

CA

State

92376

Zip

If more than one Plaintiff, list next Plaintiff here:

Name:

Phone: ()

Street address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Mailing address (if different):

Street

City

State

Zip

☐ Check here if more than 2 Plaintiffs and attach Form SC-100A.☐ Check here if either Plaintiff listed above is doing business under a fictitious name. If so, attach Form SC-103.**2 The Defendant (the person, business, or public entity being sued) is:**

Name: MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC

Phone: (858) 309-6963

Street address: 3111 CAMINO DEL RIO NORTH, #1300

Street

SAN DIEGO

City

CA

State

92108

Zip

Mailing address (if different): CSC 2710 Gateway Oak Dr #150

AFS

Street

Sacramento

City

CA

State

95833

Zip

If more than one Defendant, list next Defendant here:

Name:

Phone: ()

Street address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Mailing address (if different):

Street

City

State

Zip

☐ Check here if more than 2 Defendants and attach Form SC-100A.☐ Check here if any Defendant is on active military duty, and write his or her name here: _____**3 The Plaintiff claims the Defendant owes \$ 2000.00 (Explain below):**

a. Why does the Defendant owe the Plaintiff money? Violations: 15 USC 1692c, 1692d; and Civil Code 1788.17. Plaintiff became aware of violations on October 20, 2013.

b. When did this happen? (Date): _____

If no specific date, give the time period: Date started: 10/17/2013 Through: 10/20/2013

c. How did you calculate the money owed to you? (Do not include court costs or fees for service.)

15USC 1692k(a)(1)(2)(A)(3); and Civil Code 1788.30(b)

☒ Check here if you need more space. Attach one sheet of paper or Form MC-031 and write "SC-100, Item 3" at the top.

Case Number:

SCF 51 400430

Plaintiff (list names): Tonya Washington

- ④ You must ask the Defendant (in person, in writing, or by phone) to pay you before you sue. Have you done this? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If no, explain why not: _____

- ⑤ Why are you filing your claim at this courthouse?

This courthouse covers the area (check the one that applies):

- a. ☒ (1) Where the Defendant lives or does business. (2) Where the Plaintiff's property was damaged. (3) Where the Plaintiff was injured. (4) Where a contract (written or spoken) was made, signed, performed, or broken by the Defendant or where the Defendant lived or did business when the Defendant made the contract.
- b. ☐ Where the buyer or lessee signed the contract, lives now, or lived when the contract was made, if this claim is about an offer or contract for personal, family, or household goods, services, or loans. (Code Civ. Proc., § 395(b).)
- c. ☐ Where the buyer signed the contract, lives now, or lived when the contract was made, if this claim is about a retail installment contract (like a credit card). (Civil Code, § 1812.10.)
- d. ☐ Where the buyer signed the contract, lives now, or lived when the contract was made, or where the vehicle is permanently garaged, if this claim is about a vehicle finance sale. (Civil Code, § 2984.4.)
- e. ☐ Other (specify): _____

- ⑥ List the zip code of the place checked in ⑤ above (if you know): 92377

- ⑦ Is your claim about an attorney-client fee dispute? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, and if you have had arbitration, fill out Form SC-101, attach it to this form, and check here: ☐

- ⑧ Are you suing a public entity? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, you must file a written claim with the entity first. ☐ A claim was filed on (date): _____

If the public entity denies your claim or does not answer within the time allowed by law, you can file this form.

- ⑨ Have you filed more than 12 other small claims within the last 12 months in California?

☐ Yes ☒ No If yes, the filing fee for this case will be higher.

- ⑩ I understand that by filing a claim in small claims court, I have no right to appeal this claim.

- ⑪ I have not filed, and understand that I cannot file, more than two small claims cases for more than \$2,500 in California during this calendar year.

I declare, under penalty of perjury under California State law, that the information above and on any attachments to this form is true and correct.

Date: 1/24/14 Tonya Washington
Plaintiff types or prints name hereTonya Washington
Plaintiff signs hereDate: _____
Second Plaintiff types or prints name here_____
Second Plaintiff signs here**Requests for Accommodations**

Assistive listening systems, computer-assisted, real-time captioning, or sign language interpreter services are available if you ask at least 5 days before the trial. Contact the clerk's office for Form MC-410, Request for Accommodations by Persons With Disabilities and Response. (Civil Code, § 54.8.)

SC-100**Information for the Defendant (the person being sued)**

"Small claims court" is a special court where claims for \$5,000 or less are decided. A "natural person" (not a business or public entity) may generally claim up to \$10,000, including a sole proprietor. (*See below for exceptions.) The process is quick and cheap. The rules are simple and informal.

You are the Defendant—the person being sued. The person who is suing you is the Plaintiff.

Do I need a lawyer?

You may talk to a lawyer before or after the case. But you *may not* have a lawyer represent you in court (unless this is an appeal from a small claims case).

How do I get ready for court?

You don't have to file any papers before your trial, unless you think this is the wrong court for your case. But bring to your trial any witnesses, receipts, and evidence that supports your case. And read "Be Prepared for Your Trial" at www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/prepare.

What if I need an accommodation?

If you have a disability or are hearing impaired, fill out Form MC-410, *Request for Accommodations*. Give the form to your court clerk or the ADA/Access Coordinator.

What if I don't speak English well?

Bring an adult who is not a witness to interpret for you, or ask the court clerk for an interpreter at least five days before your court date. A court-provided interpreter may not be available or there may be a fee for using a court interpreter unless you qualify for a fee waiver. You may ask the court for a list of interpreters and also the *Application for Waiver of Court Fees and Costs* (form FW-001).

Where can I get the court forms I need?

Go to any courthouse or your county law library, or print forms at: www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/forms.

What happens at the trial?

The judge will listen to both sides. The judge may make a decision at your trial or mail the decision to you later.

What if I lose the case?

If you lose, you can appeal. You'll have to pay a fee. (Plaintiffs cannot appeal their own claims.)

- If you were at the trial, file Form SC-140, *Notice of Appeal*. You must file within 30 days after the judge's decision.
- If you were *not* at the trial, fill out and file Form SC-135, *Notice of Motion to Vacate Judgment and Declaration*, to ask the judge to cancel the judgment (decision). If the judge does not give you a new trial, you have 10 days to appeal the decision. File Form SC-140.

For more information on appeals, see: www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/appeals.

*Exceptions: Different limits apply in an action against a defendant who is a guarantor. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 116.220(c).) In an action brought by a natural person for damages for bodily injuries resulting from an automobile accident, a \$7,500 limit applies if a defendant is covered by an automobile insurance policy that includes a duty to defend. (See Code Civ. Proc., § 116.221.)

Do I have options?

Yes. If you are being sued, you can:

- **Settle your case before the trial.** If you and the Plaintiff agree on how to settle the case, both of you must notify the court. Ask the Small Claims Advisor for help.
- **Prove this is the wrong court.** Send a letter to the court *before* your trial, explaining why you think this is the wrong court. Ask the court to dismiss the claim. You must serve (give) a copy of your letter (by mail or in person) to all parties. (Your letter to the court must say you have done this.)
- **Go to the trial and try to win your case.** Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case. To make sure the witnesses go to the trial, fill out Form SC-107, and the clerk will subpoena (order) them to go.
- **Sue the person who is suing you.** File Form SC-120, *Defendant's Claim*. There are strict filing deadlines you must follow.
- **Agree with the Plaintiff's claim and pay the money.** Or, if you can't pay the money now, go to your trial and say you want to make payments.
- **Let the case "default."** If you don't settle and do not go to the trial (default), the judge may give the Plaintiff what he or she is asking for plus court costs. If this happens, the Plaintiff can legally take your money, wages, and property to pay the judgment.

What if I need more time?

You can change the trial date if:

- You cannot go to court on the scheduled date (you will have to pay a fee to postpone the trial) *or*
- You did not get served (receive this order to go to court) at least 15 days before the trial (or 20 days if you live outside the county) *or*
- You need more time to get an interpreter. One postponement is allowed, and you will not have to pay a fee to delay the trial.

Ask the Small Claims Clerk about the rules and fees for postponing a trial. Or fill out Form SC-150 (or write a letter) and mail it to the court *and* to all other people listed on your court papers before the deadline. Enclose a check for your court fees, unless a fee waiver was granted.

**Need help?**

Your county's Small Claims Advisor can help for free.

Or go to www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/advisor.

SC-100**Información para el demandado (la persona demandada)**

La "Corte de reclamos menores" es una corte especial donde se deciden casos por \$5,000 o menos. Una "persona natural" (que no sea un negocio ni una entidad pública) puede reclamar hasta \$10,000. Una "persona natural" (que no sea un negocio ni una entidad pública), que incluye un dueño único, generalmente puede reclamar hasta \$10,000. (* Vea abajo para las excepciones.) El proceso es rápido y barato. Las reglas son sencillas e informales. Usted es el Demandado — la persona que se está demandando. La persona que lo está demandando es el Demandante.

¿Necesito un abogado?

Puede hablar con un abogado antes o después del caso. Pero *no puede* tener a un abogado que lo represente ante la corte (a menos que se trate de una apelación de un caso de reclamos menores).

¿Cómo me preparo para ir a la corte?

No tiene que presentar ningunos papeles antes del juicio, a menos que piense que ésta es la corte equivocada para su caso. Pero lleve al juicio cualquier testigos, recibos, y cualquier pruebas que apoyan su caso. Y lea "Esté preparado para su juicio" en:

www.courts.ca.gov/reclamosmenores/preparesse.

¿Qué hago si necesito una adaptación?

Si tiene una discapacidad o tiene impedimentos de audición, llene el formulario MC-410, *Request for Accommodations*. Entregue el formulario al secretario de la corte o al Coordinador de Acceso/ADA de su corte.

¿Qué pasa si no hablo inglés bien?

Traiga a un adulto que no sea testigo para que le sirva de intérprete. O pida al secretario de la corte que le asigne uno. Si quiere que la corte le asigne un intérprete, lo tiene que pedir como mínimo menos cinco días antes de la fecha en que tenga que ir a la corte. Es posible que no haya disponible un intérprete proporcionado por la corte o que tenga que pagar una cuota por emplear un intérprete de la corte, a menos que tenga una exención de cuotas. Puede pedir a la corte una lista de intérpretes y la Solicitud de exención de cuotas y costos de la corte (formulario FW-001).

¿Dónde puedo obtener los formularios de la corte que necesito?

Vaya a cualquier edificio de la corte, la biblioteca legal de su condado, o imprima los formularios en: www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/forms (página está en inglés).

¿Qué pasa en el juicio?

El juez escuchará a ambas partes. El juez puede tomar su decisión durante la audiencia o enviársela por correo después.

¿Qué pasa si pierdo el caso?

Si pierde, puede apelar. Tendrá que pagar una cuota. (El Demandante no puede apelar su propio reclamo.)

- Si estuvo presente en el juicio, llene el formulario SC-140, *Aviso de apelación*. Tiene que presentarlo dentro de 30 días después de la decisión del juez.
- Si no estuvo en el juicio, llene y presente el formulario SC-135, *Aviso de petición para anular el fallo y Declaración para pedirle al juez que anule el fallo* (decisión). Si la corte no le otorga un nuevo juicio, tiene 10 días para apelar la decisión. Presente el formulario SC-140.

Para obtener más información sobre las apelaciones, véa: www.courts.ca.gov/reclamosmenores/apelaciones.

¿Tengo otras opciones?

Si. Si lo están demandando, puede:

- **Resolver su caso antes del juicio.** Si usted y el Demandante se ponen de acuerdo en resolver el caso, ambos tienen que notificar a la corte. Pídale al Asesor de Reclamos Menores que lo ayude.
- **Probar que es la corte equivocada.** Envíe una carta a la corte *antes* del juicio explicando por qué cree que es la corte equivocada. Pídale a la corte que despidiera el reclamo. Tiene que entregar (dar) una copia de su carta (por correo o en persona) a todas las partes. (Su carta a la corte tiene que decir que hizo la entrega.)
- **Ir al juicio y tratar de ganar el caso.** Lleve testigos, recibos y cualquier prueba que necesite para probar su caso. Para asegurarse que los testigos vayan al juicio, llene el formulario SC-107, y el secretario emitirá una orden de comparecencia ordenándoles que se presenten.
- **Demandar a la persona que lo demandó.** Presente el formulario SC-120, *Reclamo del demandado*. Hay fechas límite estrictas que debe seguir.
- **Aceptar el reclamo del Demandante y pagar el dinero.** O, si no puede pagar en ese momento, vaya al juicio y diga que quiere hacer los pagos.
- **No ir al juicio y aceptar el fallo por falta de comparecencia.** Si no llega a un acuerdo con el Demandante y no va al juicio (fallo por falta de comparecencia), el juez le puede otorgar al Demandante lo que está reclamando más los costos de la corte. En ese caso, el Demandante legalmente puede tomar su dinero, su sueldo o sus bienes para cobrar el fallo.

¿Qué hago si necesito más tiempo?

Puede cambiar la fecha del juicio si:

- No puede ir a la corte en la fecha programada (tendrá que pagar una cuota para aplazar el juicio) o
- No le entregaron los documentos legalmente (no recibió la orden para ir a la corte) por lo menos 15 días antes del juicio (o 20 días si vive fuera del condado) o
- Necesita más tiempo para conseguir intérprete. (Se permite un solo aplazamiento sin tener que pagar cuota para aplazar el juicio).

Pregúntele al secretario de reclamos menores sobre las reglas y las cuotas para aplazar un juicio. O llene el formulario SC-150 (o escriba una carta) y envíelo antes del plazo a la corte y a todas las otras personas que figuran en sus papeles de la corte. Adjunte un cheque para pagar los costos de la corte, a menos que le hayan dado una exención.



¿Necesita ayuda? El Asesor de Reclamos Menores de su condado le puede ayudar sin cargo.

O vea "Información por condado" en:

www.courts.ca.gov/reclamosmenores/asosores.

*Excepciones: Existen diferentes límites en un reclamo contra un garante. (Vea el Código de Procedimiento Civil, sección 116.220 (c).) En un caso presentado por una persona natural por daños debido a lesiones físicas en un accidente automovilístico, existe un límite de \$7,500 si el demandado tiene cobertura bajo una póliza de seguro de vehículo que incluye la obligación de defender. (Vea el Código de Procedimiento Civil, sección 116.221.)

SC-100, Page 5 of 5

**Reclamo del Demandante y ORDEN
Para Ir a la Corte de Reclamos Menores
(Reclamos Menores)**

**EXHIBIT 1
Page 5**

SC-100, Item 3

Plaintiff: Tonya Washington
Defendant: MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC

Case No: _____

- 3a.** Defendant MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT INC ("MCM"), a corporation, is a third-party collection agency operating in San Diego, California.

MCM on October 17 to 20, 2013, placed four phone calls to Plaintiff re an unknown alleged debt after receipt of notification from Plaintiff by certified mail on September 16, 2013, to only communicate with Plaintiff in writing to her home address.

Fair Debt Collection Practices Act 15 USC § 1692c

MCM on October 17 to 20, 2013, by phoning Plaintiff re an unknown alleged debt after receipt of notification from Plaintiff by certified mail on September 16, 2013, to only communicate with Plaintiff in writing engaged in conduct the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse Plaintiff re an alleged debt. **Fair Debt Collection Practices Act 15 USC § 1692d**

MCM willfully and knowingly failed to comply with the provisions of 15 USC §§ 1692b to 1692j, **Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, California Civil Code § 1788.17**

Violations came to the attention of Plaintiff on **October 20, 2013**.

- 3c.** Plaintiff seeks statutory relief for injuries pursuant to:
Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 USC § 1692k(a)(1)(2)(A)(3) - \$1000
Rosenthal Act, Civil Code § 1788.30(b) - \$1000

On **September 13 to 16 and October 17 to 20, 2013**, Defendant phoned Plaintiff attempting to collect an unknown alleged debt without possessing a local business license/tax certificate in the City of San Diego as required pursuant to the California Department of Consumer Affairs, and the City of San Diego, and therefore could not lawfully collect or attempt to collect an alleged debt.

On **September 16, 2013**, Defendant received Notice and Demand by certified mail to provide certified copy within 5 days of contact with Plaintiff: contract with alleged original creditor, local business license, confirmation of status as purchaser or assignee of alleged debt; and was told to only communicate with Plaintiff in writing; home address was provided in letter. No response received from Defendant.

On **October 18 and November 8, 2013**, respectively, Defendant received Notice and Demand and True Bill and Final Notice and Demand by certified mail regarding violations and payment for damages; home address was provided in letters. No response received from Defendant.

Note: During **July 2013**, Plaintiff received a privacy policy notice mailer card from "MCM" by mail to Plaintiff's home address – the only written communication ever received from Defendant.

Plaintiff believed the benign privacy notice was a routine notice related to one of several non-major credit card accounts, not from a collection agency. The mailing establishes that Defendant had possession of Plaintiff's home address prior to receipt of Plaintiff's notices.

"...if the evidence is clear, positive, uncontradicted and of such a nature that it cannot rationally be disbelieved the court must instruct that a fact so proved has been established as a matter of law."

Blank v. Coffin, 20 Cal.2d 457, 461, 126 P.2d 868; Roberts v. Del Monte Properties Co., 111 Cal.App.2d 69, 243 P.2d 914 (Cal.App. 1 Dist., 1952)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES JUDGES

This case has been assigned to District Judge Virginia A. Phillips and the assigned Magistrate Judge is Frederick F. Mumm.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

5:14-CV-00349-VAP-FFMx

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge.

Clerk, U. S. District Court

February 25, 2014

Date

By A. COBIAN

Deputy Clerk

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

☐

Western Division
312 N. Spring Street, G-8
Los Angeles, CA 90012

☐

Southern Division
411 West Fourth St., Ste 1053
Santa Ana, CA 92701

☒

Eastern Division
3470 Twelfth Street, Room 134
Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEETI. (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself ☒)
TONYA WASHINGTONDEFENDANTS (Check box if you are representing yourself ☐)
MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC.(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Bernardino
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)County of Residence of First Listed Defendant San Diego
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.

Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number) If you are representing yourself, provide the same information.
Thomas F. Landers [SBN: 207335]
tlanders@swsslaw.com
SOLOMON WARD SEIDENWURM & SMITH, LLP
401 B Street, Suite 1200
San Diego, CA 92101

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)

- ☐ 1. U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☒ 3. Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2. U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 4. Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES-For Diversity Cases Only
(Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | PTF <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | DEF <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in this State | PTF <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | DEF <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.)

- ☐ 1. Original Proceeding
- ☒ 2. Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3. Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4. Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5. Transferred from Another District (Specify)
- ☐ 6. Multi-District Litigation

V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No (Check "Yes" only if demanded in complaint.)CLASS ACTION under F.R.Cv.P. 23: ☐ Yes ☒ No☒ MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$ 2,000.00VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)
15 U.S.C. section 1692 et seq.

VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only.)

OTHER STATUTES	CONTRACT	REAL PROPERTY CONT.	IMMIGRATION	PRISONER PETITIONS	PROPERTY RIGHTS
<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	Habeas Corpus:	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights
<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment	<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent
<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust	<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	TORTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking	<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	TORTS PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL PROPERTY	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	SOCIAL SECURITY
<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/Etc	<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)
<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)
<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Org.	<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Vet.)	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus/Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405 (g))
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Vet. Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Fed. Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI
<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV	<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	BANKRUPTCY	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405 (g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement	FEDERAL TAX SUITS
<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts	<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	CIVIL RIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS-Third Party 26 USC 7609
<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters	REAL PROPERTY	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Info. Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury-Med Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	LABOR	
<input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury-Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act	
<input type="checkbox"/> 898 Admin. Procedures Act/Review of Appeal of Agency Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	
<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes		<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 American with Disabilities-Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	
		<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 American with Disabilities-Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	
				<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Ret. Inc. Security Act	

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Case Number:

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CIVIL COVER SHEET

Page 1 of 3

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII. VENUE: Your answers to the questions below will determine the division of the Court to which this case will most likely be initially assigned. This initial assignment is subject to change, in accordance with the Court's General Orders, upon review by the Court of your Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Question A: Was this case removed from state court? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If "no," go to Question B. If "yes," check the box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	STATE CASE WAS PENDING IN THE COUNTY OF:		INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles		Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo		Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange		Southern
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riverside or San Bernardino		Eastern

Question B: Is the United States, or one of its agencies or employees, a party to this action? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If "no," go to Question C. If "yes," check the box to the right that applies, enter the corresponding division in response to Question D, below, and skip to Section IX.	If the United States, or one of its agencies or employees, is a party, is it:		INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD IS:	
	A PLAINTIFF?	A DEFENDANT?		
	Then check the box below for the county in which the majority of DEFENDANTS reside.	Then check the box below for the county in which the majority of PLAINTIFFS reside.		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles		Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo	<input type="checkbox"/> Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo		Western
	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange	<input type="checkbox"/> Orange		Southern
	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverside or San Bernardino	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverside or San Bernardino		Eastern
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Western		

Question C: Location of plaintiffs, defendants, and claims? (Make only one selection per row)	A. Los Angeles County	B. Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties	C. Orange County	D. Riverside or San Bernardino Counties	E. Outside the Central District of California	F. Other
Indicate the location in which a majority of plaintiffs reside:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indicate the location in which a majority of defendants reside:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indicate the location in which a majority of claims arose:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.1. Is either of the following true? If so, check the one that applies: <input type="checkbox"/> 2 or more answers in Column C <input type="checkbox"/> only 1 answer in Column C and no answers in Column D Your case will initially be assigned to the SOUTHERN DIVISION. Enter "Southern" in response to Question D, below. If none applies, answer question C2 to the right. →	C.2. Is either of the following true? If so, check the one that applies: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 or more answers in Column D <input type="checkbox"/> only 1 answer in Column D and no answers in Column C Your case will initially be assigned to the EASTERN DIVISION. Enter "Eastern" in response to Question D, below. If none applies, go to the box below. ↓
Your case will initially be assigned to the WESTERN DIVISION. Enter "Western" in response to Question D below.	

Question D: Initial Division?	INITIAL DIVISION IN CACD
Enter the initial division determined by Question A, B, or C above: →	Eastern

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEETIX(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? ☒ NO ☐ YES

If yes, list case number(s): _____

IX(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? ☒ NO ☐ YES

If yes, list case number(s): _____

Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case:

- (Check all boxes that apply) ☐ A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or
- ☐ B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
- ☐ C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or
- ☐ D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.

X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY

(OR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT):

Thomas F. Landers, Esq.

DATE: February 21, 2014

Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet).

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))

